

ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH

Established 1912 / Present Church dedicated 1962

Mailing Address: 449 Holyoke Street, S.F. CA 94134 Phone: 415-468-0820

Website: www.stelizabetsf.org Email: stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com

August 13, 2023 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Rev. Charles Puthota, Ph.D., Pastor

Mission Statement of St. Elizabeth Church

“The joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or in any way afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ as well. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts. For theirs is a community of people united in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit in their pilgrimage towards the Kingdom of their Father, bearers of a message of salvation for all of humanity. That is why they cherish a conviction of deep solidarity with the human race and its history.”

(From the Preface of *The Church in the Modern World*---Gaudium Et Spes---of Vatican II)

Parish Office

449 Holyoke Street
415-468-0820 Fax 415-468-1457

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
8:30 am to 12:00 pm

Closed Friday

Parish Staff

Patti Spiteri	Administrative Assistant / Pastoral Coordinator
Sandy Mehrwein	Secretary
Fred Spence	Maintenance
Laurie Digneo	Faith Formation Coordinator

Mass Schedule

Saturday **4:30 pm**
Sunday **8:30 am and 10:30 am**

Monday through Saturday

Divine office: 8:00 am
Mass: 8:30 am
Holy Day: 8:30 am & 6:00 pm

Confession Schedule

After the 8:30 am Daily Mass
4:00 pm before the 4:30 pm Mass
10:00 am before the 10:30 am Sunday Mass

Baptism Preparation Classes Call the
Parish Office for more information.

Sacrament of Marriage

Call the Parish Office six months
before the desired date.

Benediction and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena: Wednesdays after the 8:30 Mass.

Legion of Mary Meeting 5:00 pm Monday in the Church.

1000 Hail Mary's Third Saturday after the 8:30 am Mass until 3:30 pm.

Over 50 Group Thursdays at 12 pm in Cantwell Hall.



From the Pastor's Desktop

A message from
Father Charles Puthota

August 13, 2023

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) Thank-You Luncheon on

August 6: Last Sunday, I had invited all those who had donated 1.33% to a luncheon at Basque Cultural Center. It was to thank the donors for their generous donation and participation in support of the ministries and mission of the Archdiocese. Thank you for attending the luncheon. There was a warm and cordial spirit of friendship and joy and gratitude at the luncheon. I had the opportunity to lead the prayer before meal and later to thank the gathering for their engagement in the life of the parish and the Archdiocese. Many thanks, again, and please do continue to be active at St. Elizabeth Parish and give your time, talent and treasure for God's glory and the service of God's people.

Tuesday, August 15: Solemnity of the Assumption of the

Blessed Virgin Mary: A Holy Day of Obligation. Masses at 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

My Ordination Anniversary:

I was ordained on August 19, 1989. That was 34 years ago! At my same Ordination Mass itself, I blessed the marriage of my brother and baptized a niece and a nephew. As the years go by, I realize more clearly that priesthood is a precious gift and a continuous task. It's an everyday calling to respond to God's grace and serve the people of God. Please keep me in your prayers. I'd like to thank you, St. Elizabeth parishioners, for your prayers, inspiration, and support. The Collect (Opening Prayer) for the Ordination Anniversary Mass given in the Roman Missal (page 1100) captures my sentiment and spirit: **"Holy Father, who, by no merit of my own, chose me for communion with the eternal priesthood of your Christ and for the ministry of your church, grant that I may be an ardent yet gentle preacher of the Gospel and a faithful steward of your mysteries."**

Word of God ---19th Sunday in Ordinary Time: God's Presence in Our Lives:

From 1 Kings in the first reading, we read this: "A strong and heavy wind was rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the Lord — but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake — but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was fire — but the Lord was not in the fire. After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound." God's presence is to be discerned in the small, whispering sound! Albert Einstein once said: "God is subtle." It takes careful and quiet seeing and perceiving of God in our lives. There may be a lot of noise and turmoil in our lives and it may become very difficult to have a sense of God's presence. It takes great courage and wisdom to seek quiet moments and to retreat from the frontlines of life's battles in order to feel God's closeness in our lives. That's why going to Mass even on weekdays for those possible (especially for the retired persons) may be a source of that assurance of God's presence. The weekend Mass for all of us has the potential to provide that sense of God in our lives. In the gospel, Jesus walks on the water. He breezes into the time and space of the disciples, but they are afraid, thinking it's a ghost. But Jesus assures: "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter tries to walk on the water but he needs more faith, as we all

do. The presence of God in Jesus is the most beautiful and precious gift in our life. With him, no matter what our troubles/situations/fears/anxieties are, we will be able to face them.

California Academy of Sciences: I recently visited a few times the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. When you have the time, check out this intellectually stimulating place that can also be full of fun. In light of what we see there, our faith could lead us to a certain kind of reflection and action. When you are there, check out the Aquarium, Planetarium, the Rain Forest, and the Natural History Museum. The "Living Roof" is also a lot of fun to visit. One of the advantages of visiting a place like this would be for us to come to appreciate more deeply God's creation and to come to love it more and to resolve to protect and preserve "our common home." Pope Francis' vision of "Laudato Si" would become more urgent and inspirational. "Earth's crammed with heaven and every common bush afire with God. But only he who sees, takes off his shoes; the rest sit around it and pluck blackberries." ---Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

A Story to Ponder: No one knows what became of Kakua after he left the Emperor's presence. Here is the story: Kakua was the first Japanese to study Zen in China. He had little use for travelling, for he took his meditation seriously. Whenever people found him out and invited him to preach, he would say a word or two and escape to another part of the forest where he would not be disturbed. On his return to Japan the Emperor heard of him and commanded him to preach at court. Kakua stood silent and helpless before the King. Then he pulled out a flute from the folds of his robe, played one short note on it, bowed profoundly to the King and disappeared.

Quotable Quotes on Love: "The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved." - Victor Hugo. "Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place." - Zora Neale Hurston. "Love's greatest gift is its ability to make everything it touches sacred." - Barbara de Angelis. "You yourself, as much as anybody in the entire universe, deserve your love and affection." - Buddha. "Life without love is like a tree without blossoms or fruit." - Khalil Gibran.

Humor: A Benedictine, a Franciscan, a Dominican, and a Jesuit are walking down the road when the Holy family appears before them. The Benedictine falls to his knees and begins chanting the praises of Christ. The Franciscan immediately goes to Mary and asks if he can help with the baby or if there is anything they need. The Dominican adores the mystery of the Incarnation. The Jesuit walks over to Joseph, casually puts his arm around his shoulders, and says, "So, have you thought about where to send the boy to school?"

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 13, 2023

Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.

— *Psalm 85:12*



It is I; do not be afraid.

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NOTHING TO FEAR

A rabbi was asked why God sends trials and troubles into human lives. "Because God gets lonely for his people" was the reply. There is some resonance with this wisdom in today's Gospel, as Jesus makes his disciples get into a boat without him and goes off alone while they venture into stormy waters. Of course, neither Jews nor Christians believe that the Almighty plays this sort of whimsical game with them, but there is some truth in the statement that we don't turn to God for saving help until we're in a bind. Peter's role today, as it is throughout the New Testament, is to be a sign or to represent each member of the church and the whole church. Our story is the tale told about Peter's faith today. What can bolster our faith is that even when Christ calls us to face bravely the tempests of life, if we are walking through them with our eyes fixed on him in faith, we have nothing to fear. Even when we falter or sink, simply crying "Lord, save me!" is enough to help us know the steady grasp of God's hand. Then, sheltered inside the walls of faith, the storms we endure lose their power over us.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Elijah waits on the mountain for the LORD to pass by (1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a).

Psalm — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

Second Reading — From the Israelites, with their law and the prophets, comes the Christ (Romans 9:1-5).

Gospel — As Jesus walked on the sea, the disciples were terrified (Matthew 14:22-33).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Saturday/Sunday Collection: August 5 - 6

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 2,875.00
Parish Ministries	\$ 664.00
Over/Under	\$ 1,461.00

If you make your offertory donation by check, without using parishioner envelopes, it would be most helpful if you placed your parishioner/envelope # in the "memo" section of the check. This helps us input your donation to the offertory data system.

We will not be responsible for donations not credited due to missing envelope numbers.

MASS INTENTIONS

† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Monday

8:30 am

Tuesday

8:30 am

6:00 pm

Wednesday

8:30 am

Thursday

8:30 am

Friday

8:30 am

Saturday

8:30 am

4:30 pm

Sunday

8:30 am

10:30 am

August 14

† Giovanni Rebagliati

† Joseph F. and †Assunta Sant

August 15

† Asuncion Ramirez

Bill and Claire O'Sullivan (L)

August 16

Staff of the Good Shepherd

Gracenter and their families

August 17

† Ken Dawe

† Allen Ames

August 18

† Alan Robert Beers

August 19

Father Charles Puthota (L)

† George Topasna

Souls in Purgatory

August 20

People of the Parish

Maltese Society

† Margaret Colvig

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

August 14 through August 20

Monday: Dt 10:12-22; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mt 17:22-27

Tuesday: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10-12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56

Wednesday: Dt 34:1-2; Ps 66:1-3a, 5, 8, 16-17; Mt 18:15-20

Thursday: Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Ps 114:1-6; Mt 18:21 — 19:1

Friday: Jos 24:1-13; Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22, 24; Mt 19:3-12

Saturday: Jos 24:14-29; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Mt 19:13-15

Sunday: Is 56:1, 6-7; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

August 13 through August 19

Sunday: Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: St. Maximilian Kolbe

Tuesday: The Assumption of the BVM

Wednesday: St. Stephen of Hungary

Saturday: St. John Eudes

Parish Events on the Horizon

- **Tuesday, August 15th**

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

– A holy day of obligation

Masses are at 8:30 am and 6:00 pm

- **Saturday, August 19th**

Father Charles Puthota

34th Ordination Anniversary

- **Monday, September 4th**

Labor Day holiday office will be closed

- **Saturday, September 9th**

Faith Formation begins

The 2024 Mass Book is not open for Mass Intentions. Please check the bulletin for the opening date.

Synod on Synodality

October 2021-October 2024

Theme: Communion, Participation, Mission

A synod in the Catholic Church is both an event and a process where clergy, religious, and laity gather to discern important matters of the faith. It is a journey of search rooted in the Holy Spirit. Synods are transformative milestones that lead to renewal in the life of the Church. The current synod is called "Synod on Synodality." It's a synod that would explore the very processes of synod and examine how as the People of God we are journeying together. Pope Francis says: "Synodality is the way of being the Church today according to the will of God, in a dynamic of discerning and listening together to the voice of the Holy Spirit."

For more information: <https://www.synod.va/en.html>



It is with great joy we welcome Azariah Manning into our church and community. Azariah received the Sacrament of Baptism at our Rectory Chapel on August 5th, 2023.



Altar Flowers: Would you like to donate flowers for the altar in memory of a loved one or for a special birthday or anniversary? For information, please contact Sharon Soares, Sacristan at church.

WELCOME TO ST. ELIZABETH PARISH COMMUNITY

We extend our hands and hearts to you here celebrating with us, whether long-time or newly arrived in our parish. We thank God that you are with us. If you are not registered or have changes to your registration, please fill in the form and submit it to the office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____